

THE PELHAM

# PATHWAY

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June 2023

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Pelham's News Magazine



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# HEART FOR SERVICE

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON



Brent Sugg was sworn in as Pelham's Chief of Police on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. He and his wife, Stephanie, are Oklahoma natives embracing our southern hospitality. Sugg told the crowd he is eager to get to know the employees of the Pelham Police Department and to serve the community alongside them. While here for the ceremony, Stephanie interviewed for jobs at local dental practices. Within days she had an offer, and she began practicing in early May.

Sugg began his law enforcement career in 1994 with the City of Norman, Oklahoma. In 1999, he joined the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and quickly stood out as a leader, serving as a field training trooper and a member of OHP's tactical and emergency response teams. In 2008, Sugg was promoted to Lieutenant and Patrol Supervisor. In 2013, he achieved the rank of Captain, assuming command of Troop A Field Operations, the Training Section for the OHP, and the Department of Public Safety (DPS). He also served as Commander of the Criminal Investigations Section, the Office of Professional Standards Division, and Emergency Services.

In 2019, then-Oklahoma Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Scully appointed Sugg as the 28th Chief of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. During his tenure as Chief, Sugg established operational policies and procedures, created legislation that promoted public safety, incorporated measures to streamline investigations, and managed the implementation of new technology.

When Commissioner Scully left office in 2021, Sugg was named Major and Zone Commander, a position he held until he accepted the job in Pelham.

Sugg holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and a Master of Arts in Administrative Leadership from the University of Oklahoma. He is also a graduate of the 275th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The Suggs admit that leaving Oklahoma was hard, but they believe moving to Pelham is part of God's plan for their lives. In the following pages, hear from Chief and Dr. Sugg in their own words.



Why did you choose a law enforcement career?  
What made you want to become a police officer?

My father was in law enforcement. He spent 20 years with the Norman Police Department. He began his career in 1971, and I was born in 1973. It was all I ever knew. He did not encourage or discourage me from entering law enforcement. I only told him I had applied once I was almost entirely through the months-long hiring process. I always believed it was an honorable and noble profession, and I still believe so today.



A majority of your career was spent with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. How does state law enforcement differ from municipal policing?

I have heard it said that policing is policing. It may seem simplistic, but regardless of municipal, county, state, or federal, your goal is the same – public safety. The most significant difference for me is that I now have the opportunity to know the community I am serving more genuinely. It was more difficult statewide, even as a road trooper. I knew the people in the communities where I lived, but I did not always troop in those communities.

You had a very successful career and earned retirement. So why continue, especially outside the state you called home all your life?

I enjoy working. I chose to retire because I accepted this position. My career with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol was fulfilling, and I left with great pride. My wife and I are both driven people. We seek out challenges. We have both continued our education as adult learners. After our son graduated college, we began exploring opportunities inside Oklahoma and outside the state. We prayed over this opportunity for several months. We were specific about what we wanted with warmer weather and outdoor activities. We also were looking for communities that support law enforcement.

As you get to know the men and women in the department, what is the most important thing you've learned so far?

They want to serve the citizens of Pelham. Many of the officers that work here started with another agency and chose to serve here. They are deeply committed to this community.

How do you identify and develop leaders?

I believe the leaders will identify themselves. Through observation and listening, you can see whom people are drawn to as informal or formal leaders. People that they value for guidance and those not seeking personal gain. Hopefully, you also see how they use their influence. The development piece involves grace. Allowing people the opportunity to learn from mistakes. I first met with the department in April and reminded them that I would make mistakes. I will make decisions that will sometimes upset them and cause them frustration. I also told them I would apologize when I made a mistake. I want to do my best to extend grace.





## What is Pelham's most significant public safety asset?

The people that serve. The personnel in communications, records, administration, housekeeping, and law enforcement officers. These individuals have chosen to be in public safety, a profession that has taken a lot of grief in the past few years. I have had conversations with many of the employees of this department, and they want to be here and serve the citizens of Pelham.

## What is Pelham's most significant public safety challenge?

Recruitment. Law enforcement as a profession is still struggling with recruiting, but so is every other industry. People are choosing not to work. On May 4th, Dave Ramsey and Mike Rowe hosted a conference in Franklin, Tennessee, called America's Labor Crisis. It is not just law enforcement being impacted. Look at the number of businesses in Pelham trying to hire.

## What changes might the community see regarding public safety in the months ahead?

I hope you see a community that feels empowered to contact law enforcement, engage in meaningful conversation about public safety, and develop new partnerships with the Pelham Police Department.

## Since you've been in Pelham for about a month, what stands out most about the community?

Almost everyone I meet invites me to church. I appreciate their willingness to share their faith and invite people to church and desire to share their faith and invite people to church.

## The choice to move to Alabama. That sounds crazy for a couple who grew up in and then raised their own family in Oklahoma. Was it an easy choice?

Chief Sugg: With films like Forrest Gump, Sweet Home Alabama, and My Cousin Vinny, why not Alabama?

Chief Sugg: We both enjoy college football, and Alabama is a great college football state. The University of Oklahoma joins the SEC in 2024. I had the opportunity to meet some fantastic Alabamians during the 2003 game in Norman, Oklahoma.

Chief & Dr. Sugg: It definitely was not an easy choice; all of our family is in Oklahoma: our church and our friends. The decision became much easier after we both visited Pelham.

## What are you looking forward to the most in terms of exploring your new home and state?

Everything is new for us. Finding a home church is significant to us. A place to grow, learn, and connect. Whether it is Oak Mountain State Park, a concert at the amphitheater, or traveling to one of the beaches, it is all new, and we are excited to be able to call Alabama home.

## What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Chief & Dr. Sugg: Hiking, running, walking  
Dr. Sugg: Hot Yoga

## What do you like to do for fun?

Chief Sugg: I like to cook. My wife likes for me to cook. It is fun for both of us for me to cook. So I am told!





# LEADING FROM THE FRONT

## RECRUITING AND SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

The City of Pelham has an exceptional and diverse team of employees and fosters an engaging and meaningful work environment. Every employee is supported and encouraged professionally and personally.

Each department is led by experts with decades of municipal or private industry experience. Within the last nine months, the City has recruited four new department heads with a combined 120 years of experience in parks & recreation, information technology, facility and event management, and law enforcement. The City also recruited a new Deputy Director of Development Services and Public Works/City Engineer, bringing another 30 years of experience to the team.

When a leadership team is strong, it sets the tone for the entire organization and creates a culture of excellence. This helps attract and retain top talent. It also leads to growth from within because when employees see that their leaders are strong and effective, they are more likely to be motivated and inspired to become leaders. This is evident within the Pelham Fire Department.

Eligible for retirement two years ago, Chris Carpenter continues to serve the City of Pelham. Carpenter achieved the rank of Deputy Chief in January 2023.

"I did not consciously choose a fire service career," Carpenter explained. "In 1996, I applied for a job; I received a career. All aspects of the fire service fit the values on which I was raised, with serving others being the primary motivation." He referenced 1 Peter 4:10: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

"Everyone has a place to serve, and mine happens to be in Pelham, Alabama, at the Pelham Fire Department. I am grateful I am trusted to be a leader in this organization."

Carpenter hopes to impact those moving up the ranks, just as he did. "I hope to positively impact the development of the fire department personnel as a whole. Improve the level of preparedness, training opportunities, and leadership skills, so there are people who can replace me and other senior leaders when we choose to hang up our helmets," Carpenter explained. "We have a great fire department with incredible personnel."

"Deputy Chief Carpenter is a servant leader and desires to equip our officer corp and firefighters with the tools and training necessary to be their best to provide our citizens with the highest level of care and service possible," said Pelham Fire Chief Mike Reid. "He also has an excellent knowledge of fire, EMS, and technical rescue operations and impeccable administrative skills."





While he was promoted to Deputy Chief in January, Carpenter was honored alongside his brothers and sisters at the department's annual Badge Pinning and Promotion Ceremony. Also honored were Wayne Weaver and David Douglass. Weaver was promoted to Battalion Chief, and Douglass became Captain.

Seventeen members of the department were pinned as Apparatus Operators. The Apparatus Operator is the driver and pump operator for the fire truck. It is a critically important role because these people get personnel safely to a scene and then provide protection for firefighters on the front line of a fire. While not new in the fire service, the position is new in the Pelham Fire Department.

Congratulations to the following Apparatus Operators:

Drew Babyak

Larry Bingham

Nic Bolton

Landon Cummings

Brett Cox

Colby Faulkner

Andrew Flurry

Brett Gillespie

Jeremy Jost

Scott Lee

Gary Mince

Adam Moore

Blake Patton

Rusty Piersol

Larry Short

Chris Smith

Kenny Wilhoit









The Pelham Fire Department welcomed six new members in the last year. They are Connor Bensko, Chris Fenley, Brandon Pekarek, Jacob Morris, Isaac Cruz Jr., and Hayes Evans.

Cruz is another example of the department recognizing and developing talent from within. He was a Pelham Fire Department Explorer Post member for a year and a half and was hired in November 2022. He graduated from the Alabama Fire College in April. He is currently taking EMT Paramedic classes and is assigned to Fire Station No. 1. Eventually, he will rotate through all fire stations to learn territories and the specific technical rescue disciplines for those stations.

Cruz's father, Isaac Cruz, Sr., is a detective in the Pelham Police Department.

### Firefighter of the Year

Brent Rejonis was honored at the ceremony as the Pelham Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year. Fire Medic Rejonis joined the department in February 2015 and has 22 years of fire service experience.

"In 2019, Fire Medic Brent Rejonis started working to obtain specialized dive instructor certifications to improve the safety of and reduce the cost of maintaining the Pelham Fire Department Underwater Search and Recovery Team," explained Fire Chief Mike Reid. "In approximately 18 months, he completed the Medical Dive Course and the Public Safety Scuba Instructor and Dive Rescue I Trainer course, a combined 240 hours of training, including 100 hours of pre-course preparatory work. Brent prepared for and attended these courses while working his regular duties as a firefighter/paramedic and serving as a Tactical Medic for the Pelham, Alabama, Police Department Tactical Team. In addition, Brent has worked hard to continue to improve the state of readiness of the Pelham Fire Department Dive Team with improvements in our documentation and training techniques," Chief Reid continued. "His hard work and continued dedication to improving the services provided by the Pelham Fire Department are why he was chosen as Pelham Fire Department Firefighter of the Year 2022."







# NEW GATHERING SPACES

BY: AINSLEY ALLISON

Work is underway at the site of Pelham's first splash pad, a community feature families have said they have wanted for a long time. It is the first part of a larger project on the northern end of the City Park campus. In addition, new lighting was installed at the dog park, and the City partnered with Shelby County to construct new restrooms beside the existing pavilion. Shade structures were recently ordered for the splash pad and the new playground that will be installed in early 2024.

Splash pads bring communities together in a big way because they create a natural gathering space. Pelham Parks & Recreation Director Brian Cooper believes it will add to the city's overall aesthetic.

"Pelham takes great pride in our ability to offer and deliver world-class recreation opportunities," he said. "We continue to gauge what our citizens desire and try to bring those amenities to reality. This has been a long time coming," added Cooper.

The aquatic play experience will feature Baby Long Legs with outward-arching streams of water, the Lotus Petal, which will create a weave pattern that is fun to run through, and the Mushroom Maze, which makes a dome of water. If you are inside the dome, the sound is amplified as if you are in a cave. Other features, like the Water Flower, are geared toward smaller children.

It will have a 360-degree sheet of water that is especially appealing to toddlers. The splash pad will also be accessible to those with disabilities.

As long as the splash pad equipment is delivered on time, Parks & Recreation staff anticipate opening to the public in early July. Stay tuned for the announcement on the Parks & Recreation website and social media pages.

On the city's north end, a brand new public gathering space is coming to life at the Campus 124 development. Campus 124 Park will add a playful outdoor experience to the already fun atmosphere people immerse themselves in when they visit campus.

The City enlisted the help of the Shelby County Parks and Recreation Authority to clear and grade the space and pour a pad for a pavilion with a small stage. In May, the City Council approved just under \$500,000 to complete the project, including landscaping, irrigation, electrical, masonry work, and paving the trail extension.

Campus 124 Park is expected to be completed before the end of the summer.



# SPLASH PAD SITE



# CAMPUS 124 PARK





# MAMMOTH MARCH

BY: MARY CAMPBELL, LIBRARY DIRECTOR



We all know the librarian stereotype: glasses, soft-spoken, unadventurous, bookworm. I am half of those. I do wear glasses, and I do love to read. However, I am usually the one being shushed, and I love an adventure, especially one that involves exploring the natural world on my own two feet. That is why I knew I had to be involved when I heard about the MammothMarch, an organized 20-mile hike at Oak Mountain State Park. Unfortunately, the event was sold out, but there is more than one way to be involved. I decided to volunteer.

I am a member and past vice president of the Birmingham Ultra Trail Society, a group for folks who love to run or hike on trails for any distance, but especially for long distances (50k to 100+ miles). And yes, our acronym is BUTS. We have the sense of humor of a ten-year-old. Our group committed to volunteering at an aid station for the March. This was a big commitment because the event had over 1,000 people expected to participate! I arrived at the North Trailhead parking lot at 8:00 a.m., ready to help hungry, thirsty hikers. The event organizers had everything prepared for us: a giant tent, food boxes, and plenty of water. We got everything unpacked and ready for the hordes.

We were set up at the eight-mile mark of the March. Hikers began to trickle in around 9:00 a.m. That trickle turned into a deluge not long after that. Most of the food options for the hikers were pre-packaged, which meant we only had to keep the table stocked. However, we were also making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. You would think a peanut butter and jelly sandwich wouldn't be that exciting, but after eight miles on hilly trails, it is pure bliss. You may have heard hunger is the best spice, well it's true. The sandwiches were flying off the table. At our busiest, we had six people making sandwiches and could barely keep up!

By 1:30 p.m., most hikers had made it through the aid station. Typically when I volunteer at an event, I have time to chat with the participants. I like to find out where people are from, if this is their first event, etc. Unfortunately, I was too busy to do that at this event. I did manage to speak to my friend's parents (I couldn't remember their names at the moment, so I just shouted, "Hi, Anna's parents!"). I recognized a handful of other people but was thrilled to see so many people I didn't know. Most trail events are runs or races and are typically small in number and made up of a lot of the same people.



This was the first organized hike of this size in Alabama. Races can be intimidating to people not interested in running. The idea of being last is scary. This event took away those fears and was marketed as fun for people of all ability levels. There were no timing mats, no numbered bibs, just people heading off for a hike. It was a joy to see so many people out on the trails.

I asked the event coordinator, Michael Mitreuter, what led him to start these events. He explained, "Long-distance hiking events have become quite the success in Europe, which made me curious as to why there haven't been any of these types in the United States, the biggest outdoor event market worldwide. So, when I saw an opportunity to hook up with a business partner, I founded MammothMarch."

Many of us in Pelham know what a gem Oak Mountain State Park is, but I was curious about how Mitreuter discovered it and why he chose Oak Mountain over other Southeastern parks. He told me, "We do a lot of research to find areas that fit our criteria across the US. Whenever a park checks all or almost all our boxes, we start planning the particulars. This was quickly the case with Oak Mountain State Park." He went on to say that the support he received from both Shelby County and Oak Mountain State Park made it an easy decision to host MammothMarch in Alabama.

MammothMarch hosts hikes all over the country. I asked how Oak Mountain's event compared to his other events. "What makes MammothMarch unique is that every event is different. There are a few ones I would compare the event with, for example, Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio. Both have a unique atmosphere, some decent incline and are sell-outs in their respective first year." Mitreuter told me that since each event is so unique due to location and terrain, people have begun traveling to other MammothMarch events. In fact, 25% of the participants of the Oak Mountain event were from out of state. I know they left impressed with our crown jewel.

If, like me, you want to participate in this event, you will get your chance. The Oak Mountain State Park MammothMarch will return next year. While the date isn't set in stone yet, Mitreuter confirmed it will be in the spring. If you are interested in books on hiking, trails, or other outdoor pursuits, be sure to visit the Shirley (Bama) Funderburk Outdoor Collection at the Pelham Public Library. Flip the page for the story behind the collection.





# ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER

BY: GINA WOMACK



Shirley "Shirl" Funderburk was a woman who loved the outdoors with a passion. If you didn't know Shirl, you might think she was an average middle-aged lady who had a successful career, raised two children, put them through college, and looked forward to the day she could retire and spend more time exploring nature. But Shirl was far from average, and if you've visited the Pelham Public Library recently, a special, permanent exhibit might give you a glimpse into her adventurous spirit.

Shirl and her husband Bill met in a Cajun dance class in downtown Birmingham. Both were single then, and she would be an empty nester soon after raising two children on her own. However, the two hit it off and discovered they both were North Carolina natives and both loved outdoor pursuits. The couple eventually married and were happy to make their home in Pelham.

Shirl had spent a lot of time with her kids and animals walking in the woods behind her house. She got used to the outdoors by being a Scout mom for many years, with her son making Order of the Arrow and Eagle Scout. She took a backpacking class at UAB in 1993 to learn more about the sport.



Shirl would hit local trails whenever she had time off from her career at Bellsouth. She joined the Vulcan Trail Association and trained at Oak Mountain State Park. The club provided opportunities to go on many outings, including bicycling, canoeing, and rafting. "When we met, Shirl told me she planned to hike the Appalachian Trail from start to finish when she retired. She was determined to make that dream a reality, and she was determined to hike the trail alone and not in a group of others." The couple would hike together and participate in many club outings and events, but Bill confesses he was not as hardcore as Shirl and was still working. However, they did enjoy biking and frequently rode along Rails-to-Trails routes, including the Virginia Creeper Trail. They also enjoyed trailer and motorhome camping. Shirl had a lot of drive and trail skills. On his first trip up Springer Mountain in Georgia, Bill joked, "I thought she was trying to kill me! But Shirl just enjoyed living life 110 percent."

The Appalachian Trail, or "AT" as it is nicknamed, has its southern end in Georgia and its northern end in Maine. "Ironically, the southern end was placed in Georgia because the southern end of the Appalachians is actually in Alabama," said Bill.



Shirl enjoyed hiking Alabama's Pinhoti Trail, which some hope will connect with the Appalachian Trail one day. The AT is divided into four sections: the Southern Mountains, Virginia Highlands, Mid-Atlantic, and New England.

Hiking the entire AT is the adventure of a lifetime, but it is a challenging feat. Thousands of hikers attempt a thru-hike each year, but only one in four makes it all the way. Some people hike portions of the trail, but to be considered a thru-hiker, one must complete the entire 2,000+ mile journey, which usually takes five to seven months. The trail has an elevation gain equivalent to climbing Mount Everest 16 times.

After her retirement, Shirl started to prepare for her long-awaited thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. She would be 59 years old when she started the hike. Shirl researched, read books, and listened to people who had hiked the AT. She learned survival skills, like how to filter drinking water and protect one's food from hungry animals. As Bill explained, "You can't train for the trail; the trail trains you." Because the trail is so varied, he said much of the preparation and trail success is mental.

"Shirl was a very strong-willed, goal-oriented, and self-assured woman," said Bill. Some people asked Bill how he could let his wife set off alone on a journey of this magnitude. Bill would tell them, "Let me be clear. I don't 'LET' Shirl do anything. She will do exactly what she wants to do." All joking aside, Bill said, "We married as equals and lived as equals. I would not stand in the way of her dreams." Bill fully supported Shirl's goals and acted as a support person during the hike. "We planned to meet at various points along the trail where I would deliver fresh supplies. I knew I would follow her via technology. She had a cell phone and planned to keep an online trail journal. Based on the information she would relay to me, I would write some of her journal entries when she couldn't do so."

The big day finally arrived. After months of preparation, Shirl took her first step of the 2,174-mile journey when Bill dropped her off at the Springer Mountain, Georgia, trailhead on March 26, 2006. It is customary for AT hikers to have trail names, and Shirl registered as "Bama." "She noticed whenever she traveled outside of the South, folks would say, regarding her accent, 'You're not from around here, are you?' So, she settled on 'Bama' as a nod to her adopted state," explained Bill. Bama set off with her 38-pound backpack on a bright, chilly, 32-degree morning.

After a last farewell, Bill returned to Pelham. "As I was turning on to I-459 on my way home, Shirl called me from her cell phone to tell me she had arrived at the first shelter. She said the trail had been great so far, and she had set up her tent and was settling in."

Life on the trail is not easy, but the camaraderie between fellow hikers is a bond like no other. "It's like boot camp or basic training," said Bill. "It's a shared misery and adventure that pulls people together. You see some of the same people at campgrounds and in small towns along the way. Shirl told me she met people of all ages and circumstances; teenagers, people on personal journeys, veterans returning from war, and those who just wanted to disappear for a few months."

Bill told about small acts of kindness called "trail magic," which can include items you might need when you least expect them. "Sometimes Shirl would find cold drinks in a net in a stream. People leave these things along the trail for hikers to find them." These items are often placed by previous hikers, who know where difficult spots are located. These "trail angels" are aware of hikers' needs at points along the way and provide something small that can keep a person going, even when motivation might be lacking.







"In some of the towns along the trail, many people are hiker-friendly and open their homes and hearts to the people who pass through. Shirl particularly loved the town of Damascus, Virginia, where she met an older woman named Miss Jinny, who ran the Lazy Fox B&B. They became friends, and we always enjoyed going back to Damascus for visits," said Bill.

In the limited space here, there is no way to recount all of Shirl's adventures along the Appalachian Trail or talk about the colorful characters she met during her journey. However, her trail journal is available online for anyone to view. The entries are delightful and read like an adventure novel. Between Shirl's words and Bill's contributions, reading her journal is entirely worth it. Visit ["trailjournals.com"](http://trailjournals.com) and search "Bama." To read specifically about her 2006 thru-hike, click on the "2006 AT" tab.

The summer months passed, and Bill and Shirl had their last meet-up for supplies in Lehigh, Pennsylvania. Shirl was on her own from that point until the end of the trail. Bill said the New England states were particularly difficult, with huge boulders that hikers would have to navigate or ford rivers that were sometimes chest deep and rushing. One time, Shirl had to jump, backpack and all, over a 30-foot drop. Looking down, she saw a dead moose at the bottom. Fortunately, she made it and continued her journey.

When asked, Bill said that Shirl only encountered one bear during the entire thru-hike, and the sighting was in New Hampshire at 1,875 miles. "She and a fellow hiker named Snickers walked up on a large bear standing on the trail. The bear started to walk directly toward them. They froze to see what the bear would do, and after a moment, it sauntered off into the underbrush," said Bill.

In late August, the weather started turning colder in the New England mountains. As the first weeks of September went by, Shirl could see the light at the end of the tunnel. As she approached Mt. Katahdin, the trail's northernmost point, Shirl knew the climb to the summit would be very dangerous. She wrote in her trail journal, "Some climbs were vertical and required steel bars drilled in the boulders to form a ladder to make the climb possible. It was very scary." The strong winds and cold temperatures didn't help. "I planned to take many pictures and relax at the summit, but it was just too cold," wrote Shirl. Once at the summit, she reached into her pack and found a small rock she had picked up at Springer Mountain on the first day of her journey and dropped it at the Katahdin summit sign, completing the thru-hikers ritual. Bill recalled, "On Friday, September 22, 2006, I received a call from Shirl at 3:45 p.m. Her first words were, 'Houston, the Bama has landed!'" She had walked 2,174.60 miles in six months. In about two weeks, Shirl would be 60 years old.

Shirl returned home to Pelham and wrote her final thoughts in her trail journal. Over the years, she continued to hike some of America's most famous trails, including the Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim Trail, Florida Trail, Benton MacKaye Trail, Colorado Trail, Superior Lake Trail, and many more. In addition, she hiked portions of the Appalachian trail 12 more times until 2018.

Bill remembers October 21, 2022, as one of the worst days of his life. His beloved Shirl left this world after a courageous battle with lung cancer. "Shirl never smoked, yet lung cancer took her life," Bill said. On Shirl's trail journal page, he wrote, "She lived and loved the AT and all her adventures and the wonderful friends she met on the AT and other trails noted in her journals."



In Shirl's memory, Bill had a plaque placed on a donated picnic table at the Appalachian Trail Conservancy office in Damascus, Virginia, a town Shirl and Bill loved. Ironically, Damascus is known as "Trail Town USA" because seven nationally known trails intersect within the town limits. It is a fitting location for Shirl's name to be memorialized since Damascus is one of only three downtowns where the Appalachian Trail passes through it.

To say Bill misses Shirl is an understatement. He is reminded of her whenever he is outdoors, especially when he's sitting on their screened-in porch at their Pelham home or in the woods. "She was a remarkable woman. Perhaps her story will inspire someone else to follow their dreams, no matter at what point of life they start."

Another memorial to "Bama" is much closer to home. Before her death, she generously donated her collection of outdoor and nature books to the Pelham Public Library. Bill suggested that the library pull its outdoor-oriented books together into one section for convenience, and they enthusiastically agreed. The collection is located on the second floor of the library. It includes books on many interests, including canoeing, hiking, backpacking, wildlife guides, maps, and Rails-to-Trails information. These books are marked with a special sticker on the spine that depicts the outline of a hiker.

Mary Campbell, Director of the Pelham Public Library, said she is thrilled to have the collection. "Pelham has abundant opportunities for camping, hiking, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits. With the largest state park in Alabama as our backyard and countless other parks and trail systems in Shelby County, this is one of the best areas in the state to become an avid outdoors person. Ms. Shirley's collection of books allows us to become THE place in Shelby County to get all the information you need to make your outdoor dreams a reality."





# PANTHER PRIDE



BY: NICOLE KNIGHT

## Congratulations to the Pelham High School Class of 2023

The Pelham High School Class of 2023 recently took part in a cherished senior tradition during their Graduation Walk. Students strolled the halls of Pelham Oaks Elementary and Pelham Ridge Elementary in their caps and gowns, where students and teachers cheered them on and celebrated their accomplishments.







## Jeff Adams Appointed to the Board of Education

Jeff Adams joined the Pelham City Schools Board of Education in April 2023. He is a graduate of Pelham High School and a lifelong Pelham resident. Pelham holds a special place in his heart because his education gave him a solid foundation for achieving his goals. Now, serving on the school board allows him to give back to the community in which he lives.

Adams says he is proud of Pelham City Schools' reputation for providing quality education and wants to attract top-notch talent to continue building upon this foundation. He believes that attracting the best and brightest employees to our school system is essential to ensuring that our students receive the instruction and support they need to succeed, become productive, positive members of society, and be the leaders of tomorrow. He says he is inspired by the student body's commitment to excellence, both academically and athletically. He adds that the happiness he observes when seeing students celebrate their success is very inspirational to him.

With a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Montevallo and an MBA from the University of Alabama Birmingham, Adams brings a wealth of practical experience to his role on the board. He retired from the health insurance industry after 35 years and currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Montevallo Stephens College of Business.



## Pelham High School Named a CLAS Banner School

Pelham High School was named a 2023 CLAS School of Distinction for its Green & Gold Program at the annual Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools awards luncheon. The CLAS Banner School program was created to recognize schools in Alabama that showcase outstanding programs and services to students. Pelham's Green & Gold program is one of only eight in the state to earn the Banner School recognition. Congratulations to all the teachers, students, and administrators at Pelham High School who implement and participate in this valuable program!







## Pelham Students Honored with Character in Action Awards

One student from each of Pelham's four schools was recently honored with the Character in Action Award, which is given to students who positively impact their school and community with actions that exhibit respect, responsibility, citizenship, self-discipline, friendship, fairness, perseverance, and courage.

Congratulations to Makalya (Pelham Oaks Elementary), Layla (Pelham Ridge Elementary), Braden (Pelham Park Middle School), and Isaiah (Pelham High School). The Character in Action Award is made possible through a partnership between the Shelby County Juvenile Court, the Shelby County District Attorney's Office, the American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555, and the three school districts in Shelby County.

## Pelham Oaks & Pelham Ridge Students Immersed in STEAM Curriculum

Aspiring engineers from Pelham Ridge Elementary and Pelham Oaks Elementary recently participated in the 8th Annual Engaging Elementary Engineers (E3) Competition. The two-day, dinosaur-themed event drew students from 34 schools in central Alabama for a host of epic adventures!

Competition teams were involved in hands-on science and engineering activities that promoted critical thinking and teamwork. For example, Pelham teams showed off their coding and design skills in the Dash Through Dino Land, used their knowledge of motion and forces in the Race Away from REXY, and created a 3D Mascot representing their team.

Our students' and teachers' preparations and event-day skills were impressive and award-winning! Pelham Ridge teams won 1st Place in the Ride Away from REXY event, two teams won Best Mascot in their respective competitions, and another team earned 3rd Place honors in the Dino Land competition! Congratulations to all the winners and participants for representing Pelham so well!





# NEW CLUB ON THE BLOCK

## CENTRAL SHELBY COUNTY KIWANIS CLUB READY TO SERVE

BY: GINA WOMACK

Service-minded individuals in Pelham and Alabaster now have a new civic organization with opportunities to share their time and talents. The newly-organized Central Shelby County Kiwanis Club has hit the ground running with some big ideas to improve the quality of life in our community.

Jason McCracken is the President of the new group. He owns MC<sup>2</sup> Development Team, an IT company that recently moved to Pelham. "I wanted to do something in the community," said McCracken. "William Hart from the Hoover Metro Kiwanis Club wanted to help seed a new group in this area and went door to door to businesses that might want to be involved. When Bill stopped by the office, it made sense to join."

Civic clubs and organizations have a rich history in the Birmingham metro area and across Alabama. You'll often see signs near a city or town limit advertising the civic clubs within that community. In addition to Kiwanis, you've likely heard of the Rotary Club, Lions Club, and Civitans, among others. The Kiwanis Club of Birmingham has existed for over 100 years, and with 550 members, it is the largest Kiwanis chapter in the world. Kiwanis International has over 7,000 clubs around the globe. According to the organization's website, each club is independent in its projects and traditions. Some clubs perform hands-on community service, while others raise funds to distribute throughout the community. Kiwanis International's focus is to improve the lives of children through various community projects.

"William Hart was critical in getting the initial members to the first meeting," said McCracken. He explained that Kiwanis International has a standard process to apply for a charter, including articles of incorporation and naming board members. The new club held its first meeting on November 10, 2022.

The Central Shelby County Kiwanis Club has 17 members and is looking for more to join. "We welcome anyone," said McCracken. "I feel like this is a chance for individuals to have the opportunity to get out of themselves for a bit and help others. This allows a person to meet people outside of their professional circle. Serving in a civic organization provides a unique community perspective."



The new club plans to be involved in the Pelham Christmas parade this year, and they hope to work with the Pelham High School Key Club, a student-led high school branch of Kiwanis.

"We look forward to supporting Owens House, a children's advocacy center in Shelby County. We have plans for a cleanup day at the facility," stated McCracken.

The club has adopted a mile of Highway 31 at Mile Marker 259 to keep it litter free and looking nice. A donation day is in the works at Helena's Oversoul Brewery, and a Pancake Day fundraiser is also planned. "We are a new organization; however, we are eager to help where needed. If you have a project you think might be a good fit, please get in touch with us at [kiwanisclubofcentralshelby@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisclubofcentralshelby@gmail.com)," said McCracken.

McCracken is proud of what the new organization has accomplished so far. "I feel like each member of this Kiwanis group was instrumental in getting this club founded and established. Starting anything from zero is difficult. Every member of this club volunteered to serve. To me, that says a great deal about the character of our members."

The club meets the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Silura Brewing in Alabaster and the third Thursday at noon at Bama Burgers in Pelham. Follow the Kiwanis Club of Central Shelby County, Alabama, on Facebook to learn more.



# A PATH TO A BETTER COMMUNITY

BY: GINA WOMACK



According to a Chinese proverb, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Likewise, the path to a better community also starts by putting one foot in front of another.

Dr. Judy Mannings is a woman who has taken countless steps in her lifetime. As an avid walker and Pelham resident, Dr. Mannings is always looking for ways to improve the quality of life for fellow citizens. When Dr. Mannings noticed a few things that could enhance the walkability of Pelham City Park, she took that first step to make it happen. Thanks to her efforts, Pelham residents will soon see new mileposts on the Pelham Greenway Trail and emergency call boxes in the park.

As an AARP volunteer and a member of the state executive council of the organization, Dr. Mannings became aware of a partnership between AARP and America Walks. The two organizations sought people to participate in the Walking College, a six-month distance learning fellowship program for walkable/livable community advocates. "The goal of the Walking College is to make walking safer and easier for residents. Not everyone drives, and as we age, we try to ensure everybody has a way to get where they want to go. I applied for the program in 2022 and was accepted," explained Mannings.

The participants were immersed in leadership development, local public policy, and strategic planning. "At the program's culmination, we had to submit a walkability study to outline how we would provide access to safe places to walk." Mannings received one-on-one coaching from a personal mentor to assist her with her Walking Action Plan.

During her daily walks at Pelham City Park, Dr. Mannings observed what she called "the low-hanging fruit," or things that could be changed with little effort and at a low cost. "As I walked the trail, I realized I didn't know how far I'd walked. As part of our graduation, we were allowed to apply for a mini-grant from the AARP Walking College to enhance or assist in placing our suggestions for improvements. My grant proposal was to place mile markers on the trail, beginning at the Bearden Road entrance, so people would know the distance they had walked."

Mannings was excited when she was notified that her grant had been reviewed and approved. "Pelham Parks and Recreation received \$500 for the markers in 2022, and preliminary work has begun with stenciling to mark distances in increments of quarter-miles. Eventually, the mileposts will be installed," said Mannings.





Marking the trail in increments should help walkers keep track of the distance they traveled.

But Mannings' work had just started. "After I received the grant, AARP sent a letter informing me there was a limited amount of money available for larger grants to enhance the walkability plan. So I applied for the larger grant and asked for \$10,000 to install emergency call boxes along the trail. We received \$4,000, which is a good start." Mannings explained that the idea for the emergency call boxes came from her observation of the portion of the trail that winds beside the creek and through the woods. "The trail is beautiful, but it's a little secluded in that part. If someone has a medical emergency, there would be no way to call for help if other walkers were not around." Mannings said she and Pelham Parks and Recreation Director Brian Cooper are now working on preliminary plans for the call boxes. "The \$4,000 would probably enable us to pay for at least two call boxes, but I hope to get funding from the City to get call boxes throughout the park." Mannings spoke to the Pelham City Council in April to outline the plan. "Brian Cooper has identified some additional grants that I will research. As more grants become available through the walkability study I conducted, when the opportunity presents itself, I will move forward with the project." Mannings also mentioned the practical side of choosing emergency call boxes. "Some of the portions of the trail are in shady areas. We'll have to consider whether the boxes will work off solar power or if we'll need boxes that run off electricity. If we install boxes with electrical wiring, we must consider that."

Dr. Mannings loves to work with other community advocates to spread the word about grant opportunities. Dr. Teresa (Nichols) Riddle, a former Pelham City Council President, is a friend of Dr. Mannings. "Dr. Riddle and I were coworkers in the past, and she is involved with the bluebird trail project at Pelham City Park. I told her about an available grant, and she applied back in March. She's waiting to hear if it will be awarded."

To appreciate Dr. Judy Mannings' ability to see an issue and take the initiative to do something about it, one needs to look at the focus and determination that has allowed her to accomplish great things in life. Mannings is a lifelong learner. Her journey began as an undergraduate student at Miles College in the 1960s. "I only needed six hours to complete my undergraduate degree," said Mannings. "As a college student, I worked during the Christmas holidays for the postal service and took the required exam. Right after the holiday, I received my score. I'll never forget it. It was 97.8. I soon had an offer for a full-time job with the postal service." But Judy Mannings had a decision to make. "I went home and told my mother about this opportunity, and she said, 'You can't do that.' She wanted me to finish college. I persuaded her that it would give me a chance to help the family, so I started working for the postal service on January 1, 1966." Mannings thought her job would just involve selling stamps. She was wrong. "Back then, mail was sorted according to sectional centers. I had to memorize every city in the state of Alabama. I also had to memorize Mississippi and Kentucky. You had to take a test where they would give you cards to sort according to the sectional centers. I felt like maybe I'd made a bad choice, but as I stayed in the postal service, people began to recognize what I had to offer, and word got out that I had three years of college under my belt." From there, Mannings attended a local business college to learn typing and shorthand. "Once you are in the government service, you can take tests to move up. I took the clerk-stenographer test and passed it, which meant I could work in an office. I became one of the first women to manage carriers at the stations.

"One day, I decided I needed to finish my degree. Birmingham-Southern College started offering evening classes, and I enrolled. They would only accept two years of my credits, so I changed my major from elementary education to business administration. I would go to work at 6:00 a.m., take an extended lunch break to class at noon, get off at 5:00 p.m., and then head back to Birmingham Southern for evening classes. I also attended classes on the weekends. At that time, I lived in Bush Hills, so I was close to campus."

Mannings married her husband Herman in 1973. Then, life took a turn. "I became pregnant in 1975, and sadly, I lost my baby. In 1976, I became pregnant again and had my first son. I dropped out of school for a few years until I got him established, and then I went back. I had another son in 1980, so I dropped out and then went back. I finally finished my undergraduate degree in 1985."



Mannings decided to continue her education by working on a master's degree and then a doctorate. In between, she continued to work for the postal service in Atlanta and Washington D.C. before she came home to Alabama. "I was domiciled in Birmingham but worked the whole country as a national accounts manager. I then received my dream job as marketing manager for the postal service in the state of Alabama." To add to that accomplishment, Mannings eventually retired as the highest-ranking female who began her career with the Birmingham post office. When she retired, she had finished her doctorate.

"It was a journey, but as I matriculated, I returned to my first love, teaching." Mannings taught for the University of Phoenix and Strayer University here in Birmingham. Today, at 77 years of age, she is still teaching. Mannings is an adjunct professor for Excelsior University out of Albany, New York. "I mostly teach online now. People don't realize that online learning is not easy. You've got to be disciplined. To this day, I do videos or Zoom, so my students can see me and know I'm a real live person. It helps me stay centered." In addition, Dr. Mannings teaches leadership, business, and marketing. "I teach in the master's program, and I am a dissertation chair at a college in California."

Dr. Mannings has been a resident of Pelham since 2008. She is now a caregiver to Herman, her husband of 50 years, and devotes her time to his needs. Her two grown sons do not live in the area, so she likes to travel to see them and her three grandsons. Yet, somehow, she still finds time to work for the betterment of her beloved community. Mannings believes in a quality education for our children and a good quality of life for senior citizens. "Our kids are our future, but we must care for our seniors. These are the two most vulnerable age groups."

"I try to be involved in the community because if I'm going to live in a place, I need to do something to improve it. Just think what would happen if people stopped complaining and said, 'What can I do to help?' Can you imagine the things that we could accomplish? Mannings encouraged people to look at their passions to find ways to contribute to the community. "I love to read, so I joined the Library Guild. When a vacancy came up on the Library Board, I applied. I knew I had to start somewhere. Likewise, I love to walk, so I decided to look for ways to contribute to the walkability of Pelham.

"You can start small. Get to know more about your local government. Before you complain, you need to go to a City Council meeting and voice your concerns. Look at the agendas. Find out what things are being planned for the city. You can voice your ideas. Those ideas might not stick, but so what? If you don't use your voice and let elected officials know how you feel, how can they know?"



Meanwhile, the "Walking Doctor," as Mannings is known by her neighbors, covers at least four miles a day in her daily walks, although these days, her walks sometimes involve wearing a knee brace. "I've been walking for at least 30 years. I must keep going. I look at age two ways: age is a number, your actual age. Age is also cognitive; the age you think you are. In my mind, I'm 65 years old, but my physical age is 77. As a man thinketh, so is he. Get up, Move. It's important – even when you don't want to get out there. "Walking allows me to be with nature and with God. I look at the beauty of things, even when it's winter and the landscape is dreary. Walking is life for me."

Next time you're enjoying the trails at Pelham City Park, look for the Walking Doctor. Do yourself a favor and say hello. She's on the right path to a better Pelham, and she'd like for you to join her.



# ACTIVITY GUIDE



JUNE 20-23 & JULY 18-21  
8:30 A.M.

## Summer Golf Camps

Ballantrae Golf Club's PGA professionals are hosting two summer golf camps for juniors ages 6 - 14. In addition to golf instruction, many fun games are planned. The cost is \$150 per student. Email Head Golf Pro Jay Chambers for more information and to register: [jchambers@pelhamalabama.gov](mailto:jchambers@pelhamalabama.gov)

MONDAY | JULY 10  
2:00 P.M.

## Manga Drawing Class

Teens & tweens are invited to a manga drawing class by local artist Bo Hughins at the Pelham Public Library. Registration is required. [www.pelhamlibrary.gov](http://www.pelhamlibrary.gov)



JUNE 12-16 & JULY 10-14

## Summer Skating Camps

Campers select a track based on skating level and preferred sport. The Learn to Skate option is best for beginning skaters, aspiring hockey players, and figure skaters of all abilities. The Hockey option is best suited for hockey players on a house and/or travel team. Get more information and register at [www.pelhamciviccomplex.com](http://www.pelhamciviccomplex.com)

TUESDAY | JULY 11  
9:00 A.M.

## Youth Volleyball Clinic

This three-hour clinic introduces basic skill development for indoor and sand volleyball. This clinic is for children ages 8 - 12, and the cost is \$20 per child. Birmingham Beach Volleyball will run the clinic. Register at [www.pelhamrecreation.gov](http://www.pelhamrecreation.gov)





# ACTIVITY GUIDE

TUESDAY | JULY 11  
2:00 P.M.

## Science Around the World with McWane Science Center

Scientific exploration needs teamwork from people from all over the world. Learn how international teams of scientists have joined forces to meet the world's most daunting challenges. There is no cost to attend this program at the Pelham Public Library. Registration is encouraged. [www.pelhamlibraryal.gov](http://www.pelhamlibraryal.gov)

THURSDAY | AUGUST 3  
6:30 P.M.

## Movies Under the Stars

This free event in the park is always a family favorite. Purchase dinner from one of our local food trucks and bring your blanket or lawn chair to enjoy a movie under the stars once the sun goes down.

MONDAY | AUGUST 21 & SEPTEMBER 19  
6:00 P.M.

## STEM Family Night

Children ages 8 - 12 and their family members will work together on a STEM project at the Pelham Public Library. Registration is required. [www.pelhamlibraryal.gov](http://www.pelhamlibraryal.gov)

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 23  
10:00 A.M.

## American Red Cross Blood Drive

Give the gift of life by donating blood at the Pelham Public Library. Stay tuned to social media for details on how to book your appointment.

TUESDAY | JULY 25  
5:30 P.M.

## Let's Paint: Button Tree

Children ages 8 - 13 are invited to the Pelham Rec Center to work together to create a button tree. The cost is \$8 to cover supplies. No experience is necessary. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited, and advance registration is required. [www.pelhamalrecreation.gov](http://www.pelhamalrecreation.gov)

TUESDAY | AUGUST 8  
11:00 A.M.

## The Black and White Families of Faunsdale Plantation

Using letters, diaries, harvest records, and church registers, this talk explores what we know, and what we can know, about the lives of free white people and enslaved African Americans on one southwest Alabama plantation. Admission is free to this presentation by author, archivist, and lecturer Jim Baggett at the Pelham Public Library.

## Fall Youth Sports

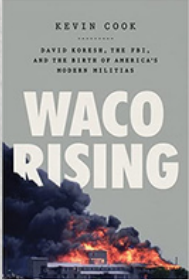
Registration is open now for Youth Baseball, Softball, T-ball and Volleyball. It closes August 16th. Find more information and register at [www.pelhamalrecreation.gov](http://www.pelhamalrecreation.gov).





# RECENT READS

Book recommendations from our Librarians



## Mary's Pick

*Waco Rising: David Koresh, the FBI, and the Birth of America's Modern Militias*  
by Kevin Cook

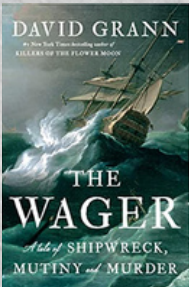
On the 30th anniversary of the tragedy at Waco, Cook reveals the full story of who Koresh was, the mistakes made by the ATF, FBI, and White House, as well as how the tragedy gave way to the modern militia movement. This is an informative, fascinating read for those who watched the tragedy unfold on live TV as well as those too young to remember.



## Russ' Pick

*My Murder* by Katie Williams

Part murder mystery, part speculative dark comedy, *My Murder* is a quickly-paced novel that keeps readers staying up late for "just one more chapter." Wife and mother Lou, brought back to life by a government program after her own murder, begins an illuminating search for answers. Recommended for fans of Paula Hawkins, A. J. Finn, and Blake Crouch.



## David's Pick

*The Wager* by David Grann

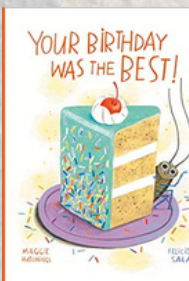
David Grann weaves together a grand true account of shipwreck, survival, and savagery. This is the story of the survivors of HMS Wager, which left England on a secret mission in 1740. What follows are tales of shipwrecks, cruelty, savagery, and mutiny. As accusations of treachery and murder fly, the Admiralty convenes a court martial to determine the truth. Whomever the court finds guilty will hang.



## Liz's Pick

*Dancing at the Pity Party: A Dead Mom Graphic Memoir* by Tyler Feder

Tyler Feder was only a college sophomore when she lost her wonderful, loving mother to uterine cancer in 2009. Feder's graphic memoir not only honors her late mother, but also captures the complexity of grief in a way that is both deeply moving and surprisingly funny. Readers need not have experienced loss personally to empathize with this tender portrait of love and family.



## Rebecca & Ashley's Pick

*Your Birthday Was the Best!* by Maggie Hutchings

At your birthday party you have one extra guest, who is both uninvited and very enthusiastic. This little cockroach is ready to play all of the party games then take a nap right in the middle of your birthday cake. It's obvious how excited you are to see him because you can't help but scream! Even after dad takes him outside in the vacuum cleaner, it will be impossible to keep this new friend from helping you celebrate.

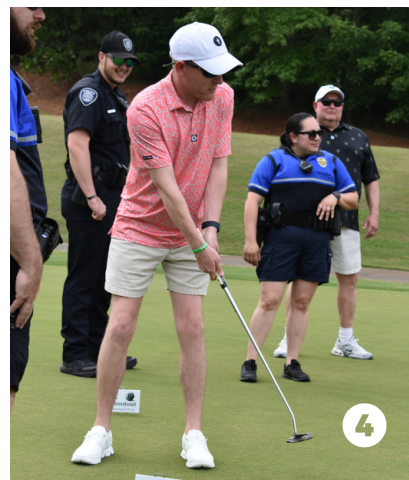


# IN PICTURES



(1). At 91 years old, Edward Brasher still does all of his own yard work and has meticulously landscaped his property. He recently planted 43 drift rose bushes in several varieties: popcorn, coral, red, lemon, & apricot. (2-4). The Pelham Garden Club Club members recently installed six bluebird boxes along the Pelham Greenway Trail at Pelham City Park. (5). A new mural by Joan Babcock features some of Oak Mountain State Park's most unique habitats. Check it out in the south trial-head field!





(1-2). Mayor Gary Waters helps bait a hook at the annual Gone Fishin' event at Oak Mountain State Park. This special day gives students from Pelham City Schools and other local school systems the chance to get out of the classroom and learn the basics of fishing. (3). Community Paramedic Adam Moore helped secure a grant to fund an AED for the new Shelby County Elder Justice Center. (4-6). Ballantrae Golf Club hosted the Challenge Golf Association and PGA legend Tom Lehman to help kick off the Regions Tradition. The free community event featured a golf clinic, contests, and free food.



# MAKING IN iMPACT

## NEW VAC TRUCK PURCHASED FOR PROACTIVE MAINTENANCE

Let's have a conversation about your sewer. You probably don't think much about what goes on beneath the streets of Pelham. The water you use in your home simply disappears down the drain. Rainwater rushes through the gutters and into a culvert. But there's so much more going on than meets the eye. Keeping the system that moves wastewater and stormwater in top shape is essential to the health of our community. That's why Pelham city leaders invested in a new Vactor iMPACT combination sewer cleaner.

The new dual-function truck will be used for sanitary sewers and storm sewer maintenance. According to the manufacturer, the Vactor iMPACT has superior vacuum performance to pull debris long-distances from sewer lines and a JetRodder® water pump with a powerful "jackhammer" action to break up the toughest blockages. The truck is also smaller and more compact, making maneuvering in tight spaces easier.

Recently, the Pelham Sewer Department and the Street Department members were on hand to get a demonstration from a company representative and train on the new equipment. The employees were excited about what they referred to as the "new toy," and they were eager to learn all the unique features of the Vactor iMPACT. They practiced vacuuming a sewer line and using the JetRodder® to blast away debris.

Both sanitary sewer lines and storm sewers are vulnerable to clogs from obstructions such as tree roots, grease, trash, leaves, and more. An overflow in the sanitary sewer line can affect human health and damage our freshwater resources. A clogged storm sewer can cause severe street flooding, potentially affecting homes and commercial buildings. The Vactor iMPACT was attractive to Pelham city leaders because it is made for municipalities needing a fast response, emergency backup vehicle, and regular sewer infrastructure maintenance.

André Bittas, Director of Development Services and Public Works, said the \$297,000 investment will improve efficiency and reduce overall costs.



"The Vactor iMPact was the preferred equipment to meet our requirements and specifications," said Bittas. "It will allow city crews to perform maintenance work in-house instead of contracting it, saving the city and taxpayers time and money."

The purchase of the truck was approved by City Council two years ago, and the order was placed immediately. "The delay in receiving the equipment was due to the Covid-19 pandemic, supply chain delays, and slow manufacturing," said Bittas. The Vactor iMPACT is now in service and will help protect, clean, and repair Pelham's infrastructure for years to come.



# SPRUCING UP?



## BULK PICKUP REMINDERS

Heavy trash items, such as mattresses, carpets, and appliances, should be placed at the curb prior to scheduling a pickup. Use our Request Tracker at [www.pelhamalabama.gov](http://www.pelhamalabama.gov) or call Amwaste at 205.788.1400 to schedule.

Large organic yard debris pickup must also be scheduled and will be collected within ten business days from the time of your request. Large organic yard debris is vegetative waste, yard waste, limbs, shrubs, and bagged grass clippings GREATER THAN the two cubic yards collected beside the cart on the first service day of the week.

**Amwaste DOES NOT collect organic debris left behind by tree and landscape companies, nor does it collect construction debris and contractor waste.**



Scan to see the full list of what Amwaste accepts.





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# ALL TOGETHER NOW

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM



### SCAN TO SIGN UP

